

Doc. No. 1592 B

Page 1.

Copy of Telegram No. 4840

Nature of Telegram: Code

Date: Dispatched 25 February Showa 16/1941/ A.M. Received: 25 February Showa 16/1941/ P.M.

To: Foreign Minister MATSUOKA

From: Ambassador OSHIMA, Berlin

No. 160 (Urgent)

At the interview with Ribbentrop reported to you in Telegram No. 157. I stressed that there have been various conjectures concerning Japanese-German relations, especially concerning the Tri-Partite Pact, that there has also been slanderous propaganda by England and the United States; but that although there may be some degree of misunderstanding on the part of Germany, the fact that Japan is absolutely faithful to the Tri-Partite Pact will be clearer when the Imperial Rescript is issued; and that both government officials and people are moving forward with united and steadfast resolve toward the realization of the national policy, with the aforementioned treaty as the keynote of our foreign relations. Ribbentrop agreed, saying that Germany too has a comradely feeling of being in the same boat as Japan, and that Chancellor Hitler has the strongest faith on this point. He said that he hoped that there was no misunderstanding about Germany's real intention by Japan.

For your reference.

Relayed to Germany, Soviet Russia, Turkey, and to the U.S.A.

CERTIFICATE

W. D. C. No.

I. P. S. No. 1592-B

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI Kaoru hereby certify that I am officially connected
with the Japanese Government in the following capacity: Chief
of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office
and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto
attached consisting of 1 page, dated 25 Feb., 1941, and described
as follows: Telegram No. 4840 from Ambassador OSHIMA to Foreign
Minister MATSUOKA.
I further certify that the attached record and document is an
official document of the Japanese Government, and that it is part
of the official archives and files of the following named ministry
or department (specifying also the file number or citation, if any,
or any other official designation of the regular location of the
document in the archives or files): Foreign Ministry
Signed at Tokyo on this
19th day of Sept., 1946 /s/ K. HAYASHI Signature of Official
Witness: /s/ T. SATO SFAL

Statement of Official Procurement

I, JOHN A. CURTIS. hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above described document was obtained by me from the above signed official of the Japanese Government in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this

20 day of Sept., 1946

/s/ J. A. CURTIS 2d Lt.

Witness:

/s/ T/4 P. TOGUCHI

Investigator Official Capacity

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典抄及已公正二門入心監明

矣'林 仁(余才下記丿野怒二於子、門子外於省又 **智能長トシテ、日本政府ト公的即似ニたルモノナル** コト、並二該官吏トシテ余が数二部附ャラレタル、 一頁ョリ成ル、千九百四十一年人昭和十六年/二月 二十五日附、下配题名、卽子在為大島大使愛松岡外 恋大臣宛電報祭四人四〇號ノ文音ノ保む二任ジ唇ル コトラ茲二盟的ス。

余、夏ニ孫附ノ記錄及ビ文智ガ日本政府ノ公文督ナ 九コト、竝二右ガ下記名稱ノ管又ハ部局ノ公式警察 及と綴ノ一部ナルコトラ監明ス。(デッアラバ磁音観叉 (引用、 某人他公式智慧文 (綴一於ケル 莨文 替ノ成規 所在ノ公式 名 窓ラモ特配スペシ)

千九百四十六年/昭和二十一年/ 九月十九日

東京二於子智名

箭 該官 吏 舉名 標 林 14

右ノ者ノ公的資本 外務省文書 輕長

岩 依願武五郎 <

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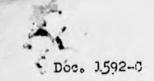
々ルモノナルコトラ茲ニ濫明ス。 余ガ公弥上、日本政府ノ上記号を盲吏ョリス字シニ印係アルモノナルコト、 粒ニ上記照をノ文書へ余、g.A.A. Curtisへ、余ガ聯合國張高括擅官總司令部

千九百四十六年人昭和二十一年人 九 月二十 日

東京二於子醫名

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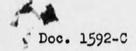
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TO:

25 Feb. Shown 16, 1941, P.M. 26 Feb. Shown 16, 1941, P.M. Foreign Minister MATSUOKA Ambassuder SHEEMITSU in London

No. 137-1.

- 1. At the interview with Premier Churchill on the 24th he first spoke to me consecutively for about 20 minutes as summurized in my previous telegram No. 136.
- 2. I answered that I understood what he seid. However, with regard to the third point, I told him that Foreign Minister MATSUOKA did not offer to mediate, but that he simply emphasized Japan's spirit toward peace and that he especially expressed his concern ever the peace in East Asia. Availing myself of this opposituaity I told him that I wanted to express my unreserved opinion to the effect that while the relations between Great Britain and Japan had become very clear, to our satisfaction, by Japan's avowal of having no intention to aggress upon Great Britain and by Eritain's declaration that she would not take any offensive policy against Japan, it was very regrettable that Britain, who was well aware that the aggravation of the relations between the two countries arose from the problems in China, has been, together with other countries, giving concrete assistance to the Chungking government, our enemy, thus maintaining a policy enabling the Chungking Government to carry on resistance against Japan. Such a policy is recognized as a challenge to the peace of East Asia for which Japan has deep concern. I continued that Japan has no idea of conquering China and that her unprejudiced stand was clearly pointed out in Marsuona's message, and that we are carrying out our policies in that line under the treaties with the Nanking Government. In view of the present would conditions, it is impossible for Japan to go on existing, abendoning the continent of China to a chaotic condition, and therefore that it is only justifiable for her to counter-attack against hostile activities made upon order and peace. Uneasiness could not be eliminated unless this point should be amended. I said that I was convinced that in the Pacific the time has come to require more positive and constructive policies, not just the preventing of general destruction. This would be significent for preventing conditions from becoming aggravated again. If all of the nations concerned had enough self-control to be able to construct peace in this area too through their goodwill and mutual understanding, I went on, it might prove the first step in gradually saving the world from catastrophe. This was why I had been making efforts and exchanging opinions with Lord Lloyd (the Colonial Secretary, a leader of the Upper House and an intimate friend of Churchill. Died lately). Land Hankey and others, as I said in conclusion, he (Churchill) might have been aware.
- 3. The Premier answered that he was aware of it; then he said that as he had declared previously (his speech in Parliament at the time of the conclusion

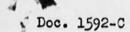


of the negotiations over the Burma Road) to the contrary, he considered it desirable that Japan be active in China, and that peace be brought about between them; so Great Britain had no intention of interfering. He said that rather than giving assistance, Britain's position is indeed tantamount to strict neutrality. Great Britain, he continued, has no objection now or later to the uninterrupted development of Japan as one of the great countries of the world. He said that, at any rate, he is at present doing his utmost to reestablish a right-sous peace in Murope. The British Empire alone has a shite population of simty-five millions as against a population of seventy-five millions in Germany, and he was sure that the war should be brought to a final victory for his country by utilizing for bigger resources and with the assistance of the U. S. A.

4. The premier soid further that after the conclusion of the Tripartite Fact the intentions of Japan had been so vague as to cause suspicion on the part of Britain and the U. S. A., but instead that conditions have now become good is clear both at home and abroad by the press accounts. To the above I answered that it would be a gross mistake to consider that the latest press campaign by Britain gives favorable effect to Japan. In a word, a campaign of such nature would be only harmful and unprofitable. Then the Premier justified himself, saying that there was no special campaign.

5. At the interview today Fremier Churchill tried to emphasize the determination of Great Britain to carry through the war, calling the German actions inhuman aggressive acts, but he did not criticize the past Japanese policies toward China. Instead he appeared to show an attitude of indifference toward it.

Dispatch relayed to United Sta 400



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Dispatch relayed to United Shades

CERTIFICATE

W. D. C. No. 1592-C

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI Kaoru hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Government in the following capacity: Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of 4 pages, dated 25 Feb., 1941, and described as follows: Telegram No. 4956 from Ambassador SHICEMITSU in London to Foreign Minister MATSUOKA.

I further certify that the attached record and document is an official document of the Japanese Government, and that it is part of the official archives and files of the following named ministry or department (specifying also the file number or citation,

if any, or any other official designation of the regular location of the document in the archives or files): Foreign Ministry

Signed at Tokyo on this

19th day of Sep. 1946

/s/ K. HAYASHI
Signature of Official

SEAL

Witness:/s/ T. SATO

Official Capacity

Statement of Official Procurement

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Investigator
Official Capacity